Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and Memorial

The American Battle Monuments Commission

1983
LOCATION
The Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and Memorial is located 6.5 miles/10.5 kilometers northwest of Chateau-Thierry, just southwest of the village of Belleau, Aisne, France. Travel by train from the Gare de l’Est in Paris to Chateau-Thierry takes about one hour. Taxi service to the cemetery is available at the Chateau-Thierry railroad station. The cemetery may also be reached by automobile from Paris via autoroute A-3 east by taking the Montreuil-aux-Lyons exit and following the cemetery signs to Lucy-le-Bocage and proceeding through Belleau Woods to the entrance to the cemetery. The distance from Paris to the cemetery by automobile is approximately 50 miles/80 kilometers. Hotel accommodations are available in the cities of Chateau-Thierry, Meaux, Soissons and Reims.

Entrance to the Cemetery
HOURS

The cemetery is open daily to the public as shown below:
SUMMER (16 March – 30 September)
  9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. — weekdays
  10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. — Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays
WINTER (1 October – 15 March)
  9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. — weekdays
  10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. — Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays

When the cemetery is open to the public, a staff member is on duty in the Visitors’ building to answer questions and to escort relatives to grave and memorial sites (except between the hours of noon and 3:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays).

HISTORY

On the morning of 27 May 1918, the Germans attacked in force on the Aisne front between Berry-au-Bac and Anizy-le-Chateau. Reserves were rushed there by the Allies from every quarter. The French were able to stem the onslaught with the help of American troops, but only after a large salient had been driven into Allied lines roughly defined by the triangle of Reims, Chateau-Thierry and Soissons. On 9 June, two German armies attacked from the salient toward Compiègne in an attempt to widen it and secure use of the railroad from Compiègne to Soissons; the attack was unsuccessful.

The Germans then began preparations for a major offensive on either side of Reims in the general direction of Epernay and Chalons-sur-Marne. Its objective was the capture of Reims and the high ground south of it to obtain use of an additional trunk line railroad. Three German armies totaling 47 divisions and a large quantity of artillery were assembled for the offensive. Meanwhile, the Allies were doing everything they could to discover when and where the next offensive would take place. They were completely successful in their efforts, as they not only learned the line of attack, but the exact day and hour that the German offensive was scheduled to commence.

On 15 July, the date of the German offensive, there were 26 American divisions in France, of which 12 were available for combat. Because of their large size, 12 American divisions were equivalent in fire power to 24 French, British or German divisions. With so many fresh American troops available and knowing that soon there would be more, Marshal Foch, the Allied Commander, incorporated an attack by U.S. troops on the western face of the Aisne-Marne salient in his counterattack plans, as it was considered the most vulnerable part of the German lines. Shortly before the German attack was scheduled to begin, the Allies reduced the manning of their front lines to weak detachments with orders for them to retire under heavy bombardment. This tactic proved exceptionally successful as the Germans wasted much of their preparatory fire on newly abandoned positions.

To capitalize further on knowing the exact hour that the Germans were to attack, the Allies began bombarding the German assembly areas for the planned offensive 30 minutes before the preparatory fire by the Germans was scheduled to begin. This caused much confusion in the assault forces, and they took many casualties. Two days later, after sustaining heavy losses, the Germans halted their offensive without attaining the important results they had expected to achieve.

The following day, 18 July, the Allies launched their counterattack against the western face of the Aisne-Marne salient. Although the Germans resisted stubbornly, they quickly realized that their position was untenable and began a gradual withdrawal from the salient. Reduction of the Aisne-Marne salient be-
came a fact on 4 August, when Allied troops reached the south bank of the Vesle. On 6 August, the counterattack was officially terminated. Not only had a serious threat to Paris been removed, but important railroads were freed once again for Allied use. Marshal Petain, who drew up the Allied plans for meeting the German offensive, said that the counterattack could not have succeeded without American troops.

During the fighting, the church in the village of Belleau was destroyed by American artillery fire. It was restored after the war by a veterans' association of the 26th Division. Located opposite the entrance of the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, it is still known as the 26th Division Memorial Church of Belleau.

SITE

The Aisne-Marne Cemetery Memorial, 42.5 acres in extent, is situated at the foot of the hill on which stands Belleau Wood where many of those buried in the cemetery lost their lives. During World War I, it was one of the temporary wartime cemeteries established by the Army's Graves Registration Service, and was known as the American Expeditionary Forces' Cemetery No. 1764-Belleau Wood. A photograph of the temporary cemetery hangs in the superintendent's office in the Visitors' building. In 1921, Congress authorized retention of the cemetery as one of eight permanent World War I military cemeteries on foreign soil. The following year an agreement
was signed with the Government of France granting its use as a military cemetery in perpetuity free of charge or taxation. The permanent cemetery is named for the World War I campaign area in which it is located.

The memorial chapel, the Visitors’ building, the superintendent’s quarters, and the service area facilities were constructed by the American Battle Monuments Commission as part of its program of commemorating the achievements of U.S. Armed Forces in the Great War. The Commission also landscaped the grounds. In 1934, The President, by Executive Order, gave the Commission the added responsibility of operating and maintaining this and other permanent military cemeteries overseas.

ARCHITECTS
Cram and Ferguson of Boston, Massachusetts were the architects of the cemetery’s memorial features.

GENERAL LAYOUT
The cemetery is laid out generally in the form of a “T.” A long avenue leads from the entrance gate past the Visitors' building and parking area on the right (west) and the superintendent’s quarters opposite on the left to the mall and the memorial chapel beyond. The chapel which crowns the “T” sits on high ground to the south. The cross bar of the “T” is formed by the cemetery’s two grave plots, each projecting in a slightly convex arc from opposite sides of the mall. A flag pole, centered on each side of the mall, overlooks each grave plot.

MEMORIAL CHAPEL
The memorial chapel was erected over front line trenches dug by the 2nd Division as part of the defense of Belleau Wood, following capture of Belleau Wood by the division on 25 June 1918. Rising more than 80 feet
above the hillside overlooking the
cemetery, the chapel is a striking
example of French Romanesque ar-
chitecture. Its exterior walls, steps
and terrace are of native St. Maxi-
min, Savonnieres and Massangis limestone.

The decorative embellishments on
the outside of the chapel were de-
dsigned by William F. Ross and Com-
pany, East Cambridge, Mas-
sachusetts and were executed by
Alfred Bottiau, Paris, France. The
carvings on the capitols of the three
columns which flank each side of the
chapel entrance depict scenes from
the trenches of World War I. Carved
on the columns on the right side are
soldiers preparing for a bayonet charge, automatic riflemen and
riflemen; carved on the columns on
the left are artillery observers, a
machine gun crew and soldiers
launching grenades. In the tym-
panum over the entrance is carved
the figure of a crusader in armor, defender of right, flanked by the
shields of the United States and
France intertwined with branches of
oak to symbolize the traditional
unity of the two countries. Around
the top of the chapel on stone shields
are carved the insignia of American
corps and divisions which fought in
the area and the U.S. coat of arms.
On the north face are the insignia of I
Corps, the U.S. coat of arms and III
Corps; on the west face are the in-
signia of the 1st, 2d and 3d Divisions;
on the south face those of the 4th,
26th and 28th Divisions; and on the
east face those of the 32d, 42d and
77th Divisions. Decorative embel-
lishments are also carved on the cap-
itals of the belfry columns. The fol-
lowing eleven carvings appear:
bayonets for the Infantry, cannon for
the Artillery, tanks for the Tank
Corps, crossed heavy machine guns
for Machine Gun units, propellers
for Aviation units, artillery rounds
for both the Artillery and Ordnance,
a plane-table for the Engineers, the
Greek cross and caduceus for Medi-
cal units, airplane engines for Avia-
tion repair units, a mule's head over
which is engraved "8 Chev" for the
French boxcar used to transport 40
men or 8 horses, and oak leaves for
the Judge Advocate General Corps.
Seven of these carvings appear on
each side of the chapel. On the north
face are a mule's head, bayonets,
plane-table, crossed machine guns,
Greek cross and caduceus, airplane
generators and cannon; on the east face
are artillery rounds, mule's head,
bayonets, oak leaves, Greek cross
and caduceus, cannon, propellers and
tanks; on the south face are a
plane-table, crossed machine guns,
oak leaves, Greek cross and
caduceus, cannon, propellers and
tanks; on the west face are artillery
rounds, bayonets, plane-table, air-
plane engines, cannon, propellers
and tanks. The arches of the belfry
openings are embellished with carv-
ings of small arms ammunition, the
front view of a machine gun and
projectile, field packs with entrench-
ing tools attached, and selected of-

cifer and enlisted insignia. Engraved
on the sills are orientation arrows
with distances to points of historic
interest. Below the belfry openings
are sculptured heads representing
the men and women of the Allied
armed forces in World War I as fol-

ows: a French soldier, a French
nurse, an American aviator, a Scot-
tish soldier, a Russian soldier, a Por-
tuguese soldier, a Canadian aviator,
and a British Women's Army Corps
driver. The same figures appear on
each side of the chapel but in dif-
ferent order.

To the right of the chapel entrance
is a hole in the stonework made in
1940 by a German anti-tank gun
which was firing at French tanks
passing in the vicinity of the ceme-
tery. Other minor damage to the
stonework occurred but was re-
paired. This particular shell hole was
left untouched as evidence of com-
bat action in the region during World
War II.
Inside of Chapel Entrance
CHAPEL INTERIOR

The Chapel is entered through a large double door of oak, ornamented with wrought iron which opens onto the vestibule. Above the inside of the entrance is inscribed: THE NAMES RECORDED ON THESE WALLS ARE THOSE OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT IN THIS REGION AND WHO SLEEP IN UNKNOWN GRAVES.

To the right and left of the vestibule are small alcoves with benches where many of the names of the 1,060 Missing in the region whose remains were never recovered, or if recovered never identified, are engraved on the walls. The remainder of the names are engraved on the walls of the vestibule and the apse. Each alcove has one of the chapel's five beautiful stained-glass windows by Reynolds, Francis and Rohnstock of Boston, Massachusetts. The window in the alcove on the left contains the coats of arms of some of the Allied nations of World War I: the United States, France, Great Britain, Italy, Belgium, Serbia and Romania. The window of the alcove on the right contains the coats of arms of the United States, the insignia of I and II Corps and the insignia of the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 26th, 28th, 32d, 42d and 77th Divisions; these are the same insignia which are engraved on the stone shields around the top of the tower.

On entering the chapel, one's eyes are drawn to the apse with its exquisitely carved and gilded altar of Italian marble, the color of peach blossoms. At the top of the altar back are carved, respectively, an owl for wisdom, a crusader whose shield bears a lion device for fortitude, and scales
Stained Glass Window over Altar
for justice. Below these figures the six virtues appear in two lines — WISDOM, FORTITUDE, JUSTICE and FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY. Lower on the altar back in five circles are carved respectively a Gallic rock, symbolic of France; a pommee cross on an apple blossom with a serpent representing the Garden of Eden; a fouled anchor and lily, symbolic of lasting peace; a poppy, representing valor; and a passion flower, symbolic of the Crucifixion and Resurrection. Across the face of the altar is inscribed: PEACEFUL THEY REST IN GLORY EVERLASTING.

Sprigs of olive and oak are carved on the altar front, symbolizing peace and life. Carved in the center of the altar front is a bird feeding her young, symbolic of Christ feeding his flock.

Inscribed on the wall to the left of the altar are the words: IN GRATITUDE REMEMBRANCE OF HER SONS WHO DIED IN THE WORLD WAR THIS CHAPEL IS ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. A French translation of this text appears on the wall immediately to the right of the altar. The three remaining stained-glass windows are located above and to the left and right of the altar. The stained-glass window over the inscription on the wall to the left of the altar depicts St. Louis, one of the great Crusaders; the window over the altar depicts St. Michael triumphing over evil; and the window over the inscription on the wall to the right of the altar, St. Denis, patron saint of France.

GRAVES AREA

The graves area consists of two convex curved plots projecting from each side of the south end of the mall; Plot A is on the left (east) and Plot B is on the right (west). Each plot contains 13 rows of headstones and 1,144 graves. Stars of David mark the graves of those of the Jewish faith and Latin crosses all others. Of the 2,288 burials in the cemetery, 249 are of Unknowns. Those interred in the cemetery came from all of the then forty-eight states and the District of Columbia.
VISITORS' BUILDING

On the right of the entrance avenue are the Visitors' building and parking area. Inside the building are the superintendent's office and a comfortably furnished room where visitors may rest and obtain information from the cemetery staff. The visitors' register is maintained there. Burial locations and sites of memorialization in each of the Commission's cemetery memorials, travel information, information on accommodations in the vicinity, local history and other information of interest are provided on request by the cemetery staff member on duty.

PLANTINGS

The long avenue leading from the entrance gate to the graves area is bordered by plane trees and polyantha and tree roses. Massifs of multicolored shrubs such as forsythia, laurel, boxwood, Japanese plum, deutzia, mock orange, Oregon grape and others screen the graves area from the north. Beds of polyantha and tree roses border the mall and extend to the chapel steps.
Visitors' Building and Office
The Chateau-Thierry Monument is situated on Hill 204, 2 miles/3 kilometers west of the town for which it is named. It is 54 miles/87 kilometers east of Paris and 4.5 miles/7 kilometers southeast of the Aisne-Marne Cemetery and Memorial. Two stone pylons inscribed AMERICAN AISNE-MARNE MEMORIAL mark the entrance to the monument from the Paris/Chateau-Thierry highway (N-3). The site, 25 acres in extent, commands a wide view of the Marne River valley.

Designed by Paul P. Cret of Philadelphia, the Chateau-Thierry Monument was constructed by the American Battle Monuments Commission to commemorate the sacrifices and achievements of American and French fighting men in the region, and the friendship and cooperation of French and American forces during World War I.

The monument is a large and impressive double colonnade set on a well landscaped terrace. It is ornamented on its west face by heroic size figures representative of France and the United States and the longstanding unity and friendship between the two nations. The figures were designed and executed by Alfred Bottiau of Paris, France. At either side of the figures on the base of the monument is engraved the dedicatory inscription: THIS MONUMENT HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO COMMEMORATE THE SERVICES OF HER TROOPS AND THOSE OF FRANCE WHO FOUGHT IN THIS REGION DURING THE WORLD War. IT STANDS AS A LASTING SYMBOL OF THE FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND AMERI-
The east face of the monument is ornamented with an eagle and shield also of heroic proportions. Inscribed on the base of the sculpture are the words: TIME WILL NOT DIM THE GLORY OF THEIR DEEDS. Below the inscription is a large ornamental map of the region designed by Paul P. Cret showing the ground gained by U.S. Forces on 18 July 1918 and thereafter. In front of the map is an orientation table giving distances and directions to points of historical interest. From there and elsewhere on the terrace, an excellent view of the Marne River valley may be had. Along the base of the monument on either side of the map are carved the numerical designations and insignia of the U.S. corps and divisions commemorated there. These are from left (north) to right: the 1st, 2d and 3d Divisions, I and III Corps, and the 28th, 32d, 42d, 77th and 83d Divisions.

Inscribed above the columns on all fours sides of the monument are the names of places in the region where important battles were fought by American troops: GRIMPETTES WOOD VAUX FISMES MISSY-AUX-BOIS BELLEAU WOOD JUVIGNY MEZY NOROY-SUR-OURCQ — SERGY SERINGES-ET-NESES VIERZY LE CHARME BAZOCHOES FISMETTE BERZY-LE-SEC TRUGNY LA CROIX ROUGE FARM TORCY.

A brief resume of American fighting in the general vicinity is engraved on the north and south interior walls at the center of the colonnade: IN LATE MAY 1918 THE GERMAN ARMY MADE A SURPRISE ATTACK ALONG THE AISNE RIVER AND ADVANCED RAPIDLY TOWARD THE MARNE. ALLIED REINFORCEMENTS WERE HURRIEDLY BROUGHT UP, INCLUDING THE 2D AND 3D AMERICAN DIVISIONS WHICH WENT INTO POSITION DIRECTLY ACROSS THE GERMAN LINE OF ADVANCE TOWARD PARIS. AFTER SEVERE FIGHTING THESE DIVISIONS DEFINITELY STOPPED THE PROGRESS OF THE ATTACK ON THEIR FRONT AND THE LINES STABILIZED, THE GERMAN FORCES HAVING DRIVEN A DEEP SALIENT ROUGHLY DEFINED BY REIMS, CHATEAU-THIERRY AND SOISSONS INTO ALLIED TERRITORY.


OF THE 310,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT IN THESE OPERATIONS, 67,000 WERE CASUALTIES. THE RESUME IS IN FRENCH ON THE NORTH INTERIOR WALL AND IN ENGLISH ON THE SOUTH INTERIOR WALL.
Belleau Wood, 200 acres in extent, adjoins the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery behind the memorial chapel. It is maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission as a memorial to the American fighting men who fought in the AEF during World War I. Vestiges of trenches, shell holes and relics of the war to include weapons found in the vicinity may be seen. A monument erected by the U.S. Marines and a flagpole are located on an island in the road passing through the clearing in the center of Belleau Wood. The monument is a black granite stele to which has been affixed a life-size bronze bas-relief by Felix de Weldon of a Marine attacking with rifle and bayonet. It commemorates the 4th Marine Brigade of the U.S. 2d Division which was primarily responsible for capture of the Wood. Below the bas-relief at the base of the stele is a bronze plaque on which is engraved in English and French: BOIS DE BELLEAU OFFICIALLY RENAMED BOIS DE LA BRIGADE DE MARINE BY THE COMMANDING GENERAL FRENCH SIXTH ARMY ON 30 JUNE 1918 IN RECOGNITION OF THE COURAGEOUS ACTION OF THE 4TH UNITED STATES MARINE BRIGADE IN THE SEIZURE OF THIS WOOD IN THE FACE OF DETERMINED GERMAN RESISTANCE. ON 27 MAY 1918, THE GERMANS LAUNCHED A MAJOR SURPRISE OFFENSIVE WHICH CROSSED THE CHEMIN DES DAMES AND CAPTURED SOISSONS. BY 31 MAY, THEIR ARMIES WERE ADVANCING RAPIDLY DOWN THE MARNE VALLEY TOWARD PARIS. THE 2D UNITED STATES ARMY DIVI-
The American Battle Memorials Commission was created by act of Congress in March 1923 to erect and maintain memorials in the United States and foreign countries where the United States Armed Forces have served since April 6, 1917, and to control as to design and provide regulations for the erection of monuments, markers, and memorials in foreign countries by other United States citizens and organizations, public or private. It was later given responsibility for establishing or taking over from the Armed Forces permanent burial grounds in
foreign countries and designing, constructing and maintaining permanent cemetery memorials at these burial sites; controlling as to design and materials, providing regulations for, and supervising erection of all monuments, memorials, buildings, and other structures in permanent United States cemetery memorials on foreign soil; and cooperating with American citizens, States, municipalities, or associations desiring to erect war memorials outside the continental limits of the United States. It is not responsible for construction, maintenance, or operation of cemeteries in the continental United States or its Territories and possessions.

After World War I the American Battle Monuments Commission erected a memorial chapel in each of the eight military cemeteries overseas already established by the War Department, as well as eleven monuments and two bronze tablets on the battlefields and elsewhere, to record the achievements of our Armed Forces. In 1934 the World War I overseas cemeteries were transferred to the Commission by Executive Order.

The names and locations of these World War I cemetery memorials, the numbers of burials, and the numbers of Missing recorded at their memorials are:
World War I monuments erected by the Commission are located at or near: Audenarde, Belgium; Bellicourt, France; Brest, France; Cantigny, France; Chateau-Thierry, France; Gibraltar; Kemmel, Belgium; Montfaucon, France; Montsec, France; Sommepy, France; and Tours, France. World War I tablets are at Chaumont and Souilly, France.

By the end of World War II several hundred temporary cemeteries had been established by the American Graves Registration Service of the United States Army. During the years 1947 to 1954 that Service, complying with the expressed wishes of the next of kin, and by authority of law, repatriated the remains of some 172,000 recovered bodies. The remainder were given final interment in the permanent military cemeteries on foreign soil, in private cemeteries overseas, and in the national cemeteries in Honolulu, Sitka, and Puerto Rico (which are now administered by the National Cemetery System, Veterans Administration). As was the case after World War I, some remains were left in isolated graves outside of the cemeteries by request of the families who then became responsible for their maintenance.

Fourteen sites in foreign countries were selected as permanent cemeteries in 1947 by the Secretary of the Army and the American Battle Monuments Commission in concert. Their locations reflect the progress of the military operations and were selected with consideration of their accessibility, aspect, prospect, drainage, and other practical factors. The World War II cemeteries with numbers of burials, including Unknowns, and the numbers of Missing recorded at their memorials and at three separate memorials on United States soil are:

### World War I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Known</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>Commemorated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aisne-Marne, Belleau, France</td>
<td>2,039</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>1,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookwood, England</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flanders Field, Waregem, Belgium</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meuse-Argonne, Romagne, France</td>
<td>13,760</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oise-Aisne, Fere-en-Tardenois, France</td>
<td>5,415</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mihiel, Thiacoart, France</td>
<td>4,036</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somme, Bony, France</td>
<td>1,707</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suresnes (See WW II also), Suresnes, France</td>
<td>1,535</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>29,266</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,654</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,452</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### World War II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Known</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>Commemorated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ardennes, Neupre (Neuville-en-Condroz) Belgium</td>
<td>4,536</td>
<td>789</td>
<td>462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brittany, St. James, France</td>
<td>4,313</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge, England</td>
<td>3,787</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epinal, France</td>
<td>5,186</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence, Italy</td>
<td>4,189</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>1,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henri-Chapelle, Belgium</td>
<td>7,895</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorraine, St. Avold, France</td>
<td>10,338</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg</td>
<td>4,975</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manila, Republic of the Philippines</td>
<td>13,462</td>
<td>3,744</td>
<td>36,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands, Margraten, Netherlands</td>
<td>8,195</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>1,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normandy, St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France</td>
<td>9,079</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>1,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Interments</td>
<td>Exposed Bodies</td>
<td>Burials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Africa, Carthage, Tunisia</td>
<td>2,601</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>3,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhone, Draguignan, France</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sicily-Rome, Nettuno, Italy</td>
<td>7,372</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>3,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suresnes (See WW I also), Suresnes, France</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Coast Memorial, New York City, New York</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,596</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii</td>
<td>7,372</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>3,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Coast Memorial, San Francisco, California</td>
<td></td>
<td>412</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>86,727</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,511</strong></td>
<td><strong>78,954</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*World War II cemeteries maintained by the National Cemetery System, Veterans Administration*

- Honolulu, Hawaii: 11,505, 2,028 (See Honolulu Memorial)
- Puerto Rico: 69
- Sitka, Alaska: 67, 5

*Other Missing in Action Commemorated by ABMC*

- Korean War, Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii: 8,194
- Vietnam War, Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii: 2,489

In every case, use of the permanent cemetery sites on foreign soil was granted in perpetuity by the host government to the United States free of cost, rent, and taxation. The temporary cemetery sites not selected as permanent cemeteries reverted to the landowners.

In 1947, an outstanding American architect was selected to design each of the World War II cemeteries, conceiving its grave plots, a chapel, and a museum as complementary elements of an integral memorial to the services and sacrifices of the American Armed Services who fought in the particular region. Upon approval of their general schemes by the Commission, and by agreement with the Secretary of the Army, the architects’ plans of the grave plots were followed by the American Graves Registration Service in making the permanent burials of those remains which by decision of the next of kin were to be interred overseas. The timely cooperation between these two agencies contributed appreciably to the coherence of the development of the cemetery designs.

Beginning in the latter half of 1949, the permanent interments having been virtually completed, the World War II overseas cemeteries were progressively transferred for construction and maintenance to the American Battle Monuments Commission by Presidential Executive Order. Thereupon the remaining portions of the architects’ designs were carried out, step by step—grading; installation of a system of reinforced concrete beams on piles to maintain the levels and alignments of the headstones; fabrication and installation of the headstones; construction of water supply and distribution systems, utilities buildings, roads and paths; plantings; and erection of the memorials, visitors’ buildings, and flagpoles.

For design of the various memorials, no specific limitations were imposed upon the architects other than budgeted cost and a requirement that each was to embody these features:
A small devotional chapel; inscription of the names and particulars of the Missing in the region; a graphic record, in permanent form, of the services of our troops (WW II only; however, Oise-Aisne, Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel WW I American Cemeteries also have battle maps). These requirements have been interpreted in a wide and interesting variety of forms.

An important motive for the construction of the memorials is the implied undertaking by our Government to record by monuments the achievements of our Armed Services, since the erection of memorials by the troops (which in the past unfortunately had all too often been found to be poorly designed, poorly constructed, and lacking provision for maintenance) was expressly forbidden by the military services. The permanent graphic record takes the form of military maps, usually large murals, amplified by descriptive texts in English as well as in the language of the country in which the cemetery is located. The historical data for these maps were prepared by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The maps themselves were rendered by experienced artists in tasteful presentation using various media: layered marbles, fresco, bronze relief, mosaic concrete or ceramics. Another feature of interest at each memorial is the two sets of "key-maps": "The War Against Germany" and "The War Against Japan." Each set consists of three maps, each covering about one-third of the period of our participation in the war. By these key-maps any major battle may be related to the others in time and space.

With each architect, an American landscape architect, an American
sculptor, and an American muralist or painter usually collaborated. Their combined talents produced the beauty and dignity of the memorials, all of which are dedicated to the memory of the achievements of those who served and of the sacrifices of those who died. The construction of the cemeteries and memorials, and the execution of most of the works of art, were performed by local contractors and artists under the supervision of the Commission.

At each cemetery there is a visitors' building or room, with comfortable furnishings. Here visitors may learn the grave locations (or inscriptions of the Missing) at any of the oversea cemeteries.

Each grave in the oversea cemeteries is marked by a headstone of white marble—a Star of David for those of Jewish faith, a Latin cross for all others. Each headstone bears the deceased's name, rank, service, organization, date of death, and state or territory from which he entered the military service.

In the World War I cemeteries, headstones of the Unknowns, i.e., those remains which could not be identified, bear the inscription:

HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD.

In the World War II cemeteries, the inscription reads:

HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY A COMRADE IN ARMS KNOWN BUT TO GOD.

Tablets of the Missing (which also include the names of those whose remains could not be identified, and those lost and buried at sea) give name, rank, organization, and state; the circumstances under which death occurred usually precluded the possibility of determining the exact date.
These cemeteries are open every day of the year. Photography is permitted without special authorization, except when it is to be used for commercial purposes—in such cases, permission must be obtained from the Commission's local office.

Unlike National cemeteries under jurisdiction of the Veterans Administration, there can be no further burials in the American military cemeteries overseas except of those remains which may, in the future, be found on the battlefields. Essentially, these graves with their memorials constitute inviolable shrines.

In addition to the eight World War I cemeteries, the 14 World War II cemeteries, 11 World War I monuments and two tablets, the American Battle Monuments Commission program of commemoration includes the following:

SURESNES

At the Suresnes Cemetery Memorial, senior representatives of the French and United States Governments pay homage to our military Dead on ceremonial occasions. Accordingly, 24 Unknown Dead of World War II were buried in this World War I cemetery, and two loggias were added to its chapel by the Commission, thereby converting it into a shrine commemorating our Dead of both wars.

EAST COAST MEMORIAL

To commemorate those 4,596 Americans who, in or above the waters off the east coast of North and South America, but outside the territorial limits of the United States, gave their lives in the service of their country, the Commission erected a memorial in Battery Park, New York City, upon which their names and particulars are inscribed.

WEST COAST MEMORIAL

Similarly, the names and particulars of those 412 Americans who gave their lives in the service of their country off the west coast of the Americas but outside the territorial limits of the United States, are recorded at the memorial erected by the Commission at the Presidio of San Francisco.

HONOLULU MEMORIAL

Although the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Honolulu is administered by the Veterans Administration, the American Battle Monuments Commission constructed a memorial therein, incorporating the features of the memorials in its oversea cemeteries. The names of 18,094 Missing of World War II who gave their lives in the Pacific areas (except the Southwest and the Palau Islands which are commemorated at the Manila Cemetery Memorial) are recorded here as well as 8,194 missing of the Korean War and 2,489 Missing of the Vietnam War.

POINTE DU HOC MONUMENT

Following World War II, the French erected a monument at Pointe du Hoc overlooking the right flank of
Omaha Beach, France honoring the elements of the 2nd Ranger Battalion under the command of LTC James Rudder who scaled the cliff, seized the position, and defended it against German counter-attacks at a high cost of lives. The monument consists of a simple pylon on top of a concrete bunker at the edge of the cliff and appropriate inscriptions at its base in French and English. It was officially turned over to the American government for operation and maintenance in perpetuity on January 11, 1979.

MEXICO CITY NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Mexico City National Cemetery is at 31 Calzada Melchor Ocampo, about 2 miles west of the cathedral and about one mile north of the U.S. Embassy. This cemetery was established in 1851 and contains a small monument over the grave of 750 of our unidentified Dead of the War of 1847. In this one acre area there are 813 remains of Americans and others in wall crypts. Care of the cemetery was transferred from the Department of the Army to this Commission on July 16, 1947. This cemetery was closed to burials in 1923.

COROZAL AMERICAN CEMETERY, COROZAL, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

The Corozal American Cemetery is located approximately three miles north of Panama City, just off Gallard Highway between the Corozal Railroad Station and Fort Clayton. To reach the cemetery, follow Gallard Highway north from Panama City, turn right on Rybicki Road, and proceed about one-half mile to the cemetery. Taxi and bus service to the cemetery are available from Panama City. There are 4,848 identified "Known" Dead interred here. In agreement with the Republic of Panama, care and maintenance of the cemetery in perpetuity was assumed by the Commission on October 1, 1979.
FLORAL DECORATIONS

In the overseas cemeteries, the decoration of graves and the Tablets of the Missing with natural cut flowers only is permitted. The Commission is always ready to help arrange with local florists in foreign countries for placement of such decorations. Requests should be mailed so as to arrive at the appropriate Commission office at least thirty days before the date of decoration and should be accompanied by check or U. S. Postal Money Order in dollars. Deposits may be made for a single decoration on a particular day—birthday, Memorial Day, Christmas Day, for example—or for several decorations on particular dates within a year or over a period of years. Checks should be made payable to "ABMC Flower Fund," money orders to "The American Battle Monuments
Commission." Requests should be addressed to the Commission's European office, except in the case of Florence, Sicily-Rome, and North Africa cemeteries, where the Mediterranean office is responsible and Manila cemetery, where the Philippine office is responsible.

Orders for flowers for all cemeteries may also be placed through any local florist who is a member of the "Florists Telegraph Delivery Association." In such cases, the name of the deceased, his rank, service number, name of the cemetery, country in which located, and the location by plot, row, and grave should be provided, if known.

PHOTOGRAPHS
The Commission will furnish close relatives of the Dead buried or commemorated in the World War I and II cemetery memorials overseas with a color lithograph of the cemetery together with a black and white photograph of the particular grave or the section of the Tablets of the Missing where the individual's name appears. For the Honolulu, East Coast and West Coast Memorials, the Commission will supply a lithographed picture of the memorial itself and a black and white photograph of the appropriate section of the list of the Missing. Photographs of graves in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (in Honolulu) are not available through the Commission.

Requests for photographs and lithographs should be addressed to the Commission's Washington Office.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Further information regarding cemeteries and memorials may be obtained at the Commission's offices in Washington, Garches (near Paris), Rome, or Manila. Visitors passing through these cities are invited to call. The Commission's representatives there may be of assistance in verifying travel routes and schedules and also in furnishing information concerning overnight accommodations. These offices are not open on Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays, but essential information may be obtained overseas through our Embassy telephone operators.

SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC AVAILABLE THROUGH THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Name, location, and general information concerning the cemetery or memorial; plot, row, and grave number if appropriate; best routes and modes of travel in-country to the cemetery or memorial; general information about the accommodations that may be available in the vicinity; escort service within the cemetery memorial for relatives; letters authorizing fee-free passports for members of the immediate family traveling overseas to visit a grave or memorial site; black and white photographs of headstones and sections of the Tablets of the Missing on which the servicemen's names are engraved; large color lithographs of World War I and II cemeteries and memorials to which the appropriate headstone or section of the Tablets of the Missing photographs are affixed; and arrangements for floral decoration of grave and memorial sites.
Decorated Gravesite of an "Unknown"
THE AMERICAN
BATTLE MONUMENTS
COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MARCH 1923

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